

**Statement by Edward J. Markey (D-MA)**  
**Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation Briefing**  
**November 15, 2001**

Good afternoon. I'd like to begin by thanking Dr. Henderson and Dr. Smithson for coming to address the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation today on a subject of great concern to all Americans.

The recent anthrax attacks underscore the urgency with which we need to address the issue of bioterrorism. In the wake of these attacks, there is renewed concern that smallpox could be the next biowarfare agent. Today, there are only two known stores of the virus—one in Russia and the other at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Unlike anthrax, smallpox is highly contagious and extremely virulent.

As a naturally occurring disease, smallpox killed millions of people worldwide and disfigured millions more before the World Health Organization (WHO) finally declared the world free of it after an aggressive, worldwide vaccination campaign. Our first speaker was a major part of that campaign and we are honored to have Dr. Henderson here today.

Before we proceed, though, let me say a few words about the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation, which sponsored this briefing today. My esteemed colleague, Mr. Shays, and I formed the Task Force in 1997 to provide a forum for the discussion of nonproliferation issues in the post-Cold War world. The inaugural meeting of the task force occurred with an address to a standing-room-only audience by the Honorable Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Since then, we have used the Task Force as a vehicle to bring information about preventing, monitoring, and detecting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction—ALL weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, chemical or biological—to our colleagues in the Congress.

I take this opportunity to invite each Member to join the nonproliferation task force. I expect we will have an interesting year discussing issues of concern to all of us.

I also acknowledge the support of the Security for a New Century study group cosponsored by my colleagues Mr. Jim Leach and Ms. Lynne Woolsey, which helped publicize this event.

Now, I am very pleased to introduce our speakers today. Dr. Donald A. Henderson is Director of the newly created Office of Public Health Preparedness, which will coordinate national response to public health emergencies within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Henderson was the founding director of the Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and maintains appointments in the Departments of Epidemiology and International Health there.

Dr. Henderson directed the World Health Organization's global smallpox eradication campaign from 1966 to 1977 and was instrumental in 1974 in initiating WHO's global program of immunization, which is now vaccinating 80 percent of the world's children against six major diseases and has a goal of eradicating poliomyelitis.

Dr. Henderson has been recognized for his work by many institutions and governments. In 1986, he received the National Medal of Science, presented by the President of the United States. He is the recipient of the National Academy of Sciences' highest award, the Public Welfare Medal, and, with two colleagues, he shared the Japan Prize. Most recently he received from the Royal Society of Medicine the

Edward Jenner Medal.

Also here with us today is Dr. Amy Smithson who directs the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Project at the Henry L. Stimson Center. Under its auspices, Dr. Smithson has conducted analytical research across the spectrum of complex topics associated with the control and elimination of chemical and biological weapons. Dr. Smithson received her Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University, her master's in International Relations from Georgetown University, and two bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Russian from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She has published widely in journals, testified before Congress, and is frequently consulted by the media for her expertise.

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